

Lenten Mid-Week Worship

February 29, 2012

On the Road To Zoar

Our Lenten Mid Week Services will include portions of Martin Luther's Small Catechism; sermons will focus on the series "On the Road."

On the Road...

*Roads and paths, Roman highways and shepherd's trails, Biblical Palestine was crisscrossed with them. People leaving somewhere and headed toward someplace... what's left behind can be as significant as what lies ahead. Our 2012 midweek and Holy Week Lenten series focuses on some **roads** to and from in the Bible. Roads that we'll walk together.*

+ A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING +

HYMN # 425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

(Rise) **ADORATION**

Pastor: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and relents over disaster.

People: Jesus said: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

Pastor: Almighty God, before whose presence the angels veil their faces, with reverence and love we acknowledge your glory and worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity. Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

People: Merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from

your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the desires of our own hearts. We have broken your laws. We have left undone the things which we ought to have done; we have done those things which we ought not to have done; there is no health within us. O Lord, have mercy on us. Spare us O Lord; hear our fervent confession. Restore by your forgiveness those who are penitent, declaring the mercy and grace of Christ, our Lord. Grant, for His sake, that we may live a godly and righteous life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I declare to you that the almighty and merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. (Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

CATECHESIS The Creed---The First Article

Pastor: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. What does this mean?

People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and

guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

HYMN STANZA #953 "We All Believe in One True God"

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Everpresent help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

HYMN STANZA # 953 "We All Believe in One True God"

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

CATECHESIS The Creed---The Second Article

Pastor: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. What does this mean?

People: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;**

not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

(Rise) **HOLY GOSPEL Genesis 19:12-29**

The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!" But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared." He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.) By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. (Sit) 4

HYMN # 424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

SERMON *"The Backward Glance"* Genesis 19:12-29

(Rise)

HYMN STANZA # 953 "We All Believe in One True God"

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds, Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs. Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

CATECHESIS The Creed---The Third Article

Pastor: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life + everlasting. What does this mean?

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. *(Sit)*

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise) **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Father of all mercies, we give you thanks for all your goodness to us and to all people. We praise you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for your love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus

Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we ask you, give us that due sense of all your mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful and that we praise you not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Pastor: Dear God, Lord of the Church, we pray that you bless and guide pastor Harold Bender as he considers the call we have extended to him to serve as our senior pastor. Bless his family as they pray about this and as pastor Bender seeks your will, and our brothers and sisters at St. John Lutheran Church, whom pastor Bender now serves. This we pray according to your will, and in the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church, that we may proclaim your truth in thought, word, and deed, permeating the world you have created, redeemed, and will restore. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us pray for the nations that those who rule may acknowledge you alone as sovereign Lord over all things in heaven and on earth, and that leaders of all nations may serve you willingly. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us pray for those who face oppression, physical or economic, that they may know and confess you as their Savior, Redeemer, and Friend and that we, as your children, may live to love others as you first loved us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us rejoice with those who rejoice, that they may know that this great moment in their lives is but a foretaste of the Feast to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us sorrow with those who are sick, suffering or mourning, that they may know the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and heartily confess that you are nearby in every weakness and strife keeping us grounded in the one true faith. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

HYMN # 702 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lector	Grant Gundersen
Acolyte	David Sarff
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller



Next Week: **Wednesday, March 7th**

ON THE ROAD TO BETHANY

Questions With Wet Feet John 1:19-28